











Collection and Processing of Blood Specimens:

- Check to be sure tube/container is within expiration date.
- Properly identify the patient.
- Collect blood specimens in the order indicated.
- After collection, invert tubes gently as instructed and properly label the tubes.

Refer to specific test information for exceptions to these general processing instructions.

Stopper Color	Container Type	Order of Draw	General Collection & Processing Instructions
	Blood Culture Bottles: Blue - aerobic (8-10 ml) Yellow - anaerobic (5-7 ml) Pink - pediatric (1-3 ml)	First  Last	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe aseptic technique. • Do not overfill bottles.
 Royal Blue	Trace Element Tubes: Clot Activator EDTA, K2		<p>If drawing other tubes, a red top discard tube must be drawn after this tube.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 tube inversions ensure mixing of clot activator or anticoagulant with blood.
 Red	Plain (No additive, Glass)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let clot for 30 minutes. • Centrifuge and aliquot w/in 2 hours of collection.
 Light Blue*	Citrate, 3.2 %		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 - 4 tube inversions prevent clotting. • Centrifuge, aliquot and freeze if > 10 hours delay in testing.
 Gold	SST (Clot Activator and Gel for serum separation)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 tube inversions ensure mixing of clot activator with blood. • Clot for 30 minutes. • Centrifuge w/in 2 hours of collection or as directed by test specific instructions.
 Green	Lithium Heparin Sodium Heparin		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 - 10 tube inversions prevent clotting. • Centrifuge & aliquot w/in 2 hours if specimen requirement is for Plasma.
 Yellow	ACD-B (Acid Citrate Dextrose)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 - 10 tube inversions prevent clotting. • Centrifuge & aliquot if specimen requirement is for Plasma.
 Lavender	EDTA, K2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 - 10 tube inversions prevent clotting. • Centrifuge & aliquot if specimen requirement is for Plasma.
 Gray	Oxalate/Fluoride		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 - 10 tube inversions ensure proper mixing of additive and blood.

* When using a winged collection device (“butterfly”) and the Lt Blue (Citrate) tube is the first tube to be drawn, a red top discard tube should be drawn first.